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Book Department

CALHOUN, ARTHUR W. A Social History of the American Family. Pp. 411. Vol. III, Since the Civil War. Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1919.

The two preceding volumes in this series covered "The Colonial Period" and "From Independence to the Civil War." The present volume describes the influence of urban industrialism upon the family. The most striking chapters are: The White Family in the New South, The Negro Family Since Emancipation, Miscegenation, The Passing of Patriarchism and Familism, Race Sterility and Race Suicide, Divorce and The Family, and the Social Revolution. As in the preceding volumes the material consists very largely of quotations from writers who have discussed the American family of this period. Since many of these views are not based upon inductive research but represent merely the impressionistic attitude of casual observers, and especially is this true of foreign writers, one may well question whether a true picture of the family is obtained in this way. Non-critical views may be important in establishing popular opinion but are of little scientific value. One great merit of the work is that the author does not dogmatize overmuch in regard to the points presented. As the title of the work indicates it is a "Social History" -a source book of opinion concerning the family, -not a critical history. The field is now open for a series of investigations of a statistical character to prove or disprove the conclusion presented.

The author does, however, arrive at certain definite conclusions which arise out of the vast amount of material presented in the three volumes. "The family is in no sense an independent institution capable of being fashioned, sustained, or modified at will to suit the fancy. It is part and parcel of an organic civilization and must undergo such evolution as will keep it in correspondence with co-existing social institutions whose form and texture seems to depend primarily on the evolution of economic technique." "The American family in its distinctive features has been, as we saw, a product of the ascendency of the bourgeois class, the dominance of a virgin continent, and the industrial revolution is still at work, now undermining the present social order and the end of class domination is in sight.

new family is inevitable, a family based on the conservation and scientific administration of limited natural resources, on the social ownership of the instrumentalities of economic production, and the universal enjoyment of the fruits, and on a social democracy devoid of artificial stratification based on economic exploitation." Not all his readers will agree that the material presented warrants so bold a theory of economic determinism for its interpretation as that presented by the author. That there are strong tendencies of the sort indicated no one will deny. There are, however, psychic planes and currents, social survivals of traditions and mores, persistence of instincts and predispositions, and inherited biological tendencies that cannot be ignored; that modify the influences of economic factors. It is not with the principle but with the factors of determinism which the author proposes that we take exception.

The three volumes constitute a monumental work and every student of the family is indebted to the author for its completion.

J. P. LICHTENBERGER.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Cannan, Edwin, M.A., LL.D. The Paper Pound of 1797-1821. Pp. xlix, 71. London, England: P. S. King & Son, Ltd., 1919.

This report is a reprint of the Bullion Report ordered by the House of Commons on June 8, 1910, with an introduction by Edwin Cannan. This report discusses the cause of the high price of gold, the causes for the lower exchange rate and the relation between the exchange rate and the price of gold bullion, and the increase in the present amount of paper money. The book gives a timely historical background to problems very similar to those of the present day.

HOPKINS, J. CASTELL, F.S.S., F.R.G.S. The Canadian Annual Review of Public Affairs. Pp. 879. Toronto, Canada: The Canadian Review, Limited, 1919.

This is the eighteenth year for the issue of this review. The last months of the World War are covered in a running survey in the first one hundred pages of the book. The second one hundred pages are taken with a survey of the part played by the British Empire in the war, includ-